

# SCIENCE

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## THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

### ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT<sup>1</sup>

By Dr. W. W. CAMPBELL

DIRECTOR EMERITUS OF LICK OBSERVATORY AND PRESIDENT EMERITUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

NOT many times in a century does an existing condition receive wider recognition than has the present-day fact that up and down upon the earth, men, women and children are suffering in unaccustomed numbers; and we should realize that their sufferings are very far from being exclusively physical in character. In some degree, certainly, "the time is out of joint," and all who were "born to set it right," and who shall achieve high degrees of success in their endeavors, will be regarded as benefactors of the human race. Everybody who observes and thinks and draws inferences can mention a few methods or policies which, if adopted and applied, might help a bit. I myself wonder what would happen, for example, if the American styles in high custom-house tariffs, now be-

come the fashion in so many nations, could be moderated to let the seven seas, covering three fourths of the earth's surface, be used again for international commerce; and so on through a long list of pertinent items which, by the way, seem to lie largely, perhaps entirely, within the domain of the economists and the social scientists. However, there are those who say publicly, but without inclination to be specific, that discoveries in the physical and biological sciences have been coming too rapidly for the good of the world. Such ideas are now two or three years old, but they are not "sleeping dogs," and there are still some things to be said in comment.

I assume that even the very small group of extremists who advocated the taking of a holiday in scientific research would not like to call off the scores of able and devoted investigators in medical science who

<sup>1</sup> Given at the dinner of the Academy in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 21.

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